



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

July 20, 2011

RE: Respite Child Care

Dear Licensed Child Care Provider:

I am writing to inform you about an exciting program designed to help deployed Army National Guard, deployed Army Reserve, and Army Accession Command families whose loved ones are serving our country. Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are eligible only if deployed to a combat zone. The U.S. Army is partnering with Tennessee's Child Care Resource and Referral Network across the state to implement a program called *Give Army Parents a Break*. The program will provide up to sixteen (16) hours of child care services per month, per child, to these families. There are families in every county in Tennessee who are eligible for participation in this program. The Army is seeking the participation of licensed child care providers, both homes and centers, to ensure high quality care for children.

It is important to remember that military families may need child care during non-traditional child care hours, such as evenings and weekends. If you wish to participate and provide your services outside of your normal hours of operation, you will be required to change your agency's current hours of operation, as noted on your child care license application. This can be accomplished by notifying your Licensing Program Evaluator of the change in writing. It is important to note that you are operating as a licensed provider only when providing care during your licensed hours of operation.

Your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency will provide additional information regarding the application process and other criteria for participation. This program offers a wonderful support to families of deployed Army Guard and Army Reserve soldiers, and Accession Command soldiers, helping them with child care needs as they deal with many day to day challenges and stresses. Please let us know if we can, in any way, support your participation in this worthwhile program.

Sincerely,

Lois Barrett Luke
Director of Licensing

cc: Child Care Licensing Staff
Child Care Resource and Referral
Child Care Partners